



Good Morning!

Tomorrow will be the first day back to school for those attending Brevard and Indian River County Schools. As we adjust and adapt, I am thankful for the parents, faculty and staff that have been working tirelessly to make this school year a success for our students.

Whether you are learning in the classroom or virtually, I wish all of our students, families and teachers a successful school year!

I consider it a great honor to represent District 17. Please share [this link](#) with your friends and family so that they too can sign up for the [Mayfield Minute](#). If you or someone you know needs my assistance, please don't hesitate to contact my office. My staff and I are here to serve you!



DBPR Offers Online Testing for Licensure Exams

The Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR) has partnered with Pearson Vue to provide online alternatives for certain professional license exams.

Proctored testing for the following professional license examinations are now available:

- Asbestos Contractor
- Asbestos Consultant
- Auctioneer
- Barbers
- Restricted Barbers
- Cosmetology – Theory
- Cosmetology – Clinical
- Certified Drug Representative
- Community Association Manager
- Landscape Architect Florida Section
- Veterinary Medicine Laws & Rules
- Real Estate: Sales Associate; Broker Associate; Instructor; Laws & Rules; and Florida Appraiser Supplemental Law & Rules

Additionally, in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency, DBPR issued Emergency Order 2020-08 on June 9, 2020, which extends deadlines for examination eligibility and licensure eligibility through December 31, 2020, for professional licenses.

In-person examination at a designated testing center remains available to all license candidates. To learn more about the online examination options offered by DBPR in coordination with Pearson VUE, please review the [Pearson Vue Resources for Test-Takers](#).

Florida Reemployment Assistance Update

The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) recently announced that they are continuing to make progress in paying reemployment assistance claims. As of August 21st, the [DEO Claims Dashboard](#) reports that the Department has paid 1,903,315 claimants, for a total of more than \$14 billion.

Governor Ron DeSantis has directed DEO to continue waiving the work search and work registration requirements for claimants through September 5, 2020. Additionally, the waiting week requirement will continue to be waived through September 5, 2020.

Locally, our tourism businesses have been the most deeply impacted by the pandemic. Osceola County had the highest unemployment rate in July at 20.2%, followed by Orange County at 16.1%. Brevard County's unemployment rate for July was 9.2%, and Indian River County's unemployment rate is 10.2%.

For individuals needing to file a new Reemployment Assistance claim, please visit [Mobile.Connect.MyFlorida.com](#). For additional information regarding Reemployment Assistance benefit programs, please visit [FloridaJobs.org/COVID-19](#). As always, please contact me if I can assist you in anyway. My staff and I stand ready to help.

District 17 Highlights

Brevard Family Partnership

Recently I had the opportunity to visit with the Brevard Family Partnership (BFP). This organization works with community partners to prevent child abuse, manage the child welfare system and strengthen families in Brevard County.

On any given day in Florida, there are approximately 10,000 children in foster care. In Brevard County alone, there are 250 children who have been removed from their families due to abuse, neglect, or abandonment and are currently living in foster homes. Children in our community need a safe, loving, temporary place to call home while their family situation is stabilized. BFP is seeking individuals who are willing to open up their hearts and homes to a child in foster care.



Foster Parent Information Session

Tuesday, August 25th

Time: 4:00 PM

Location Online: [Facebook Live](#)

To learn more about Brevard Family Partnership and opportunities to get involved, please visit [BrevardFP.org](#) or call (321) 752-4650.

Livable Indian River County Survey

The Livable Indian River program is asking for community input as they develop a five year plan for enhancing supportive features and services that will improve the quality of life of our residents. The Senior Collaborative of Indian River County launched the program earlier this year in partnership with Indian River County.

"We are committed to creating a change that makes our community safer, more accessible, more supportive and more livable for people of all ages, especially older adults," said Karen Deigl, Chair of the Senior Collaborative.

Go to the following link to [complete the survey](#). All responses are confidential. Residents are asked to complete the survey by October 31, 2020. If you have questions, please call (772) 469-2270.

Eastern Florida State College Begins Fall Term

Eastern Florida State College students returned to classes this past week with many changes put in place to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

The college closed its four campuses for in-person instruction in March 2020, and students participated in online courses during the Spring and Summer Terms. The Fall term will continue to provide 85% of their classes online, with approximately 15% of their courses being available in person. All students and employees are required to wear masks inside the EFSC buildings; social distancing is required within the classrooms; temperatures will be taken if social distancing is not possible. Faculty and staff may continue working remotely when possible and use a reservation system for in-person appointments.

For more information, or to review the complete EFSC Reopening Plan, please visit EasternFlorida.edu.

Follow me on Facebook and Twitter, and visit my [Senate website](#)



Contact Information

Melbourne Office

900 E. Strawbridge Ave.
Melbourne, FL 32901
(321) 409-2025
Staff: [Adrienne Cronebaugh](#)
[Kaitlyn Currey](#)
[Yvette Campbell](#)

Vero Beach Office

Administration Building B
1801 27th Street
Vero Beach, FL 32960
(772) 226-1970
Staff: [Jacob Dimond](#)
